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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Draft country programme document for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance:	$14 million: $3 million from regular resources and $11.0 million through co-financing modalities and/or other, including regular resources
Programme period:	Five years (2015-2019)
Cycle of assistance:	Third
Category per decision 2013/31:	Pink

Proposed indicative assistance (in millions of $):

Strategic plan outcome area		Regular resources	Other	Total
Outcome 1	Sexual and reproductive health	1.0	9.0	10.0
Outcome 2	Adolescents and youth	0.8	1.0	1.8
Outcome 3	Gender equality and women's empowerment	0.4	0.5	0.9
Outcome 4	Population dynamics	0.4	0.5	0.9
	Programme coordination and assistance	0.4	-	0.4
	Total	3.0	11.0	14.0

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Please recycle

I. Situation analysis

1. With a total population of 28.9 million, as per the 2011 census, and a population growth rate of 1.5 per cent, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a middle-income country, ranking 71 out of 187 countries in 2012 on the human development index, according to the *Human Development Report 2013*. In total, 88 per cent of the population lives in urban areas, concentrated on the northern coastline; the indigenous population, estimated at 725,141, represents 2.5 per cent of the total. Government programmes targeting lowest-income groups have led to a considerable decrease in poverty levels (in 2012, 21.2 per cent of the population lived in poverty, and 6 per cent lived in extreme poverty).

2. Almost 55 per cent of the population is under age 30. The resulting demographic bonus is key to reducing poverty and inequality; there is a need for increased investment in youth, including improved sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sexuality education.

3. The total fertility rate decreased from 2.9 to 2.2 children per woman between 2002 and 2013, and contraceptive prevalence currently stands at 62 per cent; however, fertility rates present wide disparities among regions, income and ethnic groups. The 2010 National Demographic Survey indicates that unmet need for modern contraception has stood at 11 per cent since 2008. Although the Government has scaled up the availability of universal, free contraceptive commodities, stock-outs at service delivery points are frequent due to challenges in the commodity management system. More efforts are required to strengthen the national logistics management system, including better forecasting and more reliable, high quality procurement.

4. Millennium Development Goal 5 remains a challenge for Venezuela, with 72 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births and high disparities across regions, ranging from 28 to 125 deaths per 100,000, with the highest in indigenous areas. There is a high proportion of institutional delivery (95 per cent), and a normative framework for emergency obstetric and newborn care in place, however sustained efforts are needed to close the wide gaps in maternal mortality.

5. Adolescent pregnancy is a major challenge, which the Government highlights as requiring priority action. The birth rate for ages 15 to 19 is 101 per 1,000 women, as compared to 73 per 1,000, the average for Latin America and the Caribbean. The limited availability of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services is a determinant factor.

6. Gender-based violence is a serious concern, according to the 2010 National Demographic Survey, 50 per cent of women ever married or in union have suffered partner violence. Although the Organic Law on the Right to a Life Free of Violence was approved in 2007, there is a need to strengthen data collection and analysis on sexual and gender-based violence in order to improve prevention strategies.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

7. During the second country programme, 2009-2013, UNFPA supported public policies aimed at reducing poverty and inequality through the promotion of: (a) health and reproductive rights; (b) public planning focused on population and development; and (c) equity and equality between genders and the right of women to a life free of violence.

8. In 2013, the end-of-cyle country programme evaluation highlighted achievements in: (a) strengthening the national policy on sexual and reproductive health, through the work of a national committee that monitors cases of maternal mortality nationwide; (b) strengthening capacities and protocols to address emergency obstetric care, including the training of 750 health workers; (c) increasing the national budget for contraceptive procurement aimed at ensuring access to 800,000 low-income women per year; (d) contributing to the design of the national comprehensive sexuality education programme; (e) strengthening gender-based violence prevention and attention mechanisms, through improved case management and access to justice, and the training of 4,140 professionals in the protection system; and (f) strengthening the production of sociodemographic information and its use in national planning, including censuses, national demographic surveys, and sociodemographic studies.

9. The evaluation recommended that the future programme aim to: (a) develop strategies to implement maternal health care protocols; (b) support the design and implementation of a reliable reproductive health commodity management system; (c) develop strategies to broaden the coverage and access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents and access to high-quality sexuality education; (d) strengthen the knowledge and evidence base, including the perceptions of women and young people, to guide public policies in addressing adolescent pregnancy and gender-based violence; and (e) increase the use of demographic data and population dynamics for local planning.

III. Proposed programme

10. The proposed programme is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2015-2019 and the National Economic and Social Development Plan, 2013-2019, as well as the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017. The programme was designed in consultation with the Government, academia and United Nations organizations.

11. The programme will focus advocacy and policy guidance on supporting government efforts to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and reducing maternal mortality, with an emphasis on the most excluded populations, including indigenous groups and lowest-income adolescent girls. Leading strategies will centre on advocacy and policy guidance, complemented with knowledge management and capacity development as required. The programme will address gender and culturally sensitive approaches, with a human rights focus.

Outcome 1: Sexual and reproductive health

12. The two outputs that fall under the outcome on sexual and reproductive health, including maternal health and family planning, will support the achievement of the UNDAF outcome 4.1 on health with a focus on comprehensive health of women, children, adolescent and youth.

13. Output 1: Increased capacities of national and sub-national public health institutions and improved rights-based reproductive health services, focused on family planning, with emphasis on services for adolescents and youth. UNFPA will achieve this output by providing technical assistance to: (a) design and implement a national reproductive health commodity logistics management system; (b) scale up access to high-quality

contraceptives, through improved forecasting and procurement capacities; (c) advocate for and strengthen partnerships between the Ministry of Popular Power for Health and academic centres in order to improve training of health providers in rights-based family planning, in accordance with constitutional and legislative existing frameworks; and (d) advocate for the adoption and scaling up of high-quality youth-friendly services for adolescents, using previously tested models.

14. Output 2: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national level maternal health services, with an emphasis on basic and advanced emergency obstetric care facilities. UNFPA will achieve this output by (a) providing technical and advocacy for training in the use of obstetric care protocols; and (b) technical assistance and knowledge sharing of best practices to improve community-based maternal health interventions, including emergency transportation.

Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth

15. The two outputs that fall under the outcome for young people's sexual and reproductive health and sexuality education in the UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017, contribute to the UNDAF outcome 2.1 on education.

16. Output 1: Strengthened national and sub-national capacity for the implementation of rights-based and gender-sensitive youth policies and programmes, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health. UNFPA will achieve this output through policy guidance and technical assistance to: (a) design studies and research that provide evidence for increased investment in national youth programmes and policies; (b) ensure analysis and monitoring of the application of legislative frameworks that promote public policies for young people, based on rights, in particular sexual and reproductive rights, including youth participation; (c) use mass media and other communication strategies that reach out to school adolescents and young people; and (d) facilitate knowledge sharing on best practices related to comprehensive youth policies, including through South-South cooperation.

17. Output 2: Increased capacity of the national education system to implement rights-based and culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education programmes. UNFPA will achieve this output by providing policy guidance and technical assistance to: (a) ensure the implementation of teacher training programmes for sexuality education, including the development and application of quality didactic materials, in compliance with the multicultural education policy framework; and (b) include sexuality education contents in community service and outreach programmes.

Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment

18. This outcome has one output, which contributes to the UNDAF outcome 5.1 related to citizen security and access to justice.

19. Output 1: Strengthened national capacities for the implementation of the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence, including in humanitarian settings. UNFPA will achieve this output by providing technical assistance, advocacy and policy guidance to: (a) support the implementation of mechanisms for monitoring the Organic Law at national and local level, including in areas where the most excluded populations are living; (b) prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including sexual violence, with target groups being officials, communities and families, and including a

component on humanitarian preparedness and response to emergency situations.

Outcome 4: Population dynamics

20. The output that falls under the outcome for population dynamics responds to the UNDAF outcome 1.1 on poverty reduction, social inclusion and sustainable development, taking into consideration demographic dynamics.

21. Output 1: Strengthened capacity of national institutions to address social gaps and disparities, at national and local levels, through the integration of population dynamics into public policies. UNFPA will achieve this output through policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and technical assistance to: (a) ensure that recent population data and analysis, generated by the 2011 census, is integrated into public policy formulation at the national and local levels; (b) generate evidence-based research on social and economic disparities that disproportionally affect the rights of women and young people, including indigenous populations; (c) foster knowledge sharing with national and regional centres of excellence, on advanced methodologies for the inclusion of population dynamics in local planning.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

22. The Ministry of Popular Power for Planning, governing entity for non-refundable international technical cooperation, together with UNFPA and national counterparts, will collaborate to implement and monitor the programme.

23. The programme will use both national and direct execution modalities for implementation, and apply a results-based management approach in its planning, monitoring and evaluation. To the extent possible, UNFPA will rely on national systems. Where feasible, UNFPA and other United Nations organizations will develop joint programmes.

24. UNFPA will prioritize advocacy, public dialogue and policy advice, through national and international experts, including technical, operational and programmatic support provided by UNFPA headquarters and the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office.

25. UNFPA will select implementing partners on the basis of their relevance to the programme and their capacity and ability for high-quality programme implementation.

26. The country office includes staff funded through the institutional budget of UNFPA to perform programmatic and administrative functions. In order to strengthen the implementation of the programme, UNFPA will earmark programme funds to ensure technical expertise, as well as administrative support, to ensure adequate implementation.

27. UNFPA will develop a resource mobilization strategy to engage government and private sector institutions to contribute and leverage resources. Estimated cost-sharing resources, to be mobilized for reproductive health commodity procurement and other programmes, are based on amounts allocated during the past programme. The strategy will include several modalities for contributions and partnerships and will be based on a needs assessment for the programme.

28. In the event of an emergency, UNFPA may, in consultation with the Government, reprogramme activities, especially life-saving measures, to better respond to emerging issues.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

National priority: Ensure the health of the population, through the consolidation of the national public health system, through deepening of the "Barrio Adentro" programme, the power of the people and the articulation of all levels and areas of the system of protection, promotion, prevention and comprehensive care to the individual and collective health

UNDAF outcome: By the year 2019, the United Nations system will have contributed to the national public health system in the implementation of public policies with a focus on: (a) comprehensive health of women, children, adolescents and youth; and (b) prevention, care and surveillance of HIV/AIDS infections, sexually transmitted infections, communicable and other major diseases

UNFPA strategic plan outcome	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources
Outcome 1: Sexual and reproductive health (Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal health and HIV, that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access) Outcome indicators: • Proportion of demand for contraception satisfied Baseline: 89%; Target: 94% • Increase of the national budget for sexual and reproductive health by at least 5% Baseline: 0% ($41,500,000); Target: 5% ($43,575,000)	Output 1: Increased capacities of national and sub-national public health institutions and improved rights-based reproductive health services, focused on family planning, with emphasis on services for adolescents and youth	Output indicators: • Number of priority states supported by UNFPA to have a reproductive health and family planning commodity security management system in place Baseline 0; Target: 8 • Number of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents scaled-up using previously tested model models Baseline: 20; Target: 30	Ministry of Popular Power for Health; Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality; Mision Niño Jesus; regional and local directorates of health; social and community-based organizations	$9.5 million ($0.5 million from regular resources and $9.0 million from other resources)
	Output 2: Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national level maternal health services, with an emphasis on basic and advanced emergency obstetric care facilities	Output indicators: • Number of priority states supported by UNFPA that have fully implemented protocols for emergency obstetric care Baseline: 1; Target: 8 • Number of priority states supported by UNFPA that have implemented a strategy to improve community-based emergency obstetric care Baseline: 0; Target: 8		$0.5 million ($0.5 million from regular resources)

National priorities: (a) promoting spaces of comprehensive formation, with volunteers who treats young people in vulnerable situations; (b) strengthening the organization and active participation of young people; and (c) keeping Venezuela as the world's largest classroom through the deepening and widening of the conditions and the guarantee of the right to basic education for all

UNDAF outcome: By the end of 2019, the United Nations system will have contributed to the implementation of public policies aimed at reducing poverty, promoting equality, social inclusion and sustainable development, and taking into consideration the demographic dynamics of the country, among others

Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth (Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health) Outcome indicator: • Number of laws and policies being implemented that allow adolescents and	Output 1: Strengthened national and sub-national capacity for the implementation of rights based and gender-sensitive youth policies and programmes, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health	Output indicators: • Number of institutions engaged to share best practices related to comprehensive youth policies, including through South-South cooperation Baseline: 0; Target: 5 • Number of youth networks supported by UNFPA that actively promote and track policies and budgets addressing the rights of adolescents and youth Baseline: 2; Target: 6	Ministry of Popular Power for Youth; Ministry of Popular Power for Sports; Ministry of Popular Power for Education; pedagogical universities and schools of education; social and	$0.5 million ($0.3 million from regular resources and $0.2 million from other resources

youth to access reproductive health services Baseline: 1; Target: 3	Output 2: Increased capacity of the national education system to implement rights-based and culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education programmes	Output indicators: • Number of certified teachers and teachers in training, that have strengthened competencies to implement high-quality comprehensive sexuality education curricula Baseline: 600; Target: 3,000 • Number of out-of-school youth programmes supported by UNFPA that include sexual and reproductive health contents Baseline: 3; Target: 8	community-based organizations	$1.3 million ($0.5 million from regular resources and $0.8 million from other resources)
National priority: Consolidating equity of gender with socialist values **UNDAF outcome**: By the end of 2019, the United Nations system will have contributed in the implementation of public policies in the field of citizen security and access to justice that guarantee the exercise of human rights and crime reduction				
Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment (Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth) Outcome indicator: • Number of mechanisms established and functional to monitor implementation of the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence Baseline: 4; Target: 7	Output 1: Strengthened national capacities to deepen the implementation of the Organic Law on the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence, including in humanitarian settings	Output indicators: • Number of national institutions supported by UNFPA that have capacity to implement the organic law Baseline: 2; Target: 4 • Number of institutions working with UNFPA on an advocacy and communication strategy for the prevention and response of gender-based violence, including sexual violence Baseline: 1; Target: 4	Ministry of Popular Power for Women and Gender Equality; Office of the Ombudsman; National Directorate for Civil Protection and Disaster Management	$0.9 million ($0.4 million from regular resources and $0.5 million from other resources
National priority: Promote stewardship of popular power in the struggle for the eradication of poverty in all its manifestations **UNDAF outcome:** By the end of 2019, the United Nations system will have contributed to the implementation of public policies aimed at reducing poverty, promoting equality, social inclusion and sustainable development, and taking into consideration the demographic dynamics of the country, among others				
Outcome 4: Population dynamics (Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality) Outcome indicator: • Number of national demographic surveys with data collected, analysed and disseminated that allow for the estimation of key population and reproductive health indicators Baseline: 1; Target: 2	Output 1: Strengthened capacity of national institutions to address social gaps and disparities, at national and local levels, through the integration of population dynamics into public policies	Output indicators: • Number of studies based on the Venezuela 2011 Population and Housing Census, the 2013 National Youth Survey and the 2010 National Demographic Survey produced and disseminated for decision making Baseline: 2; Target: 8 • Number of national and local institutions that have included population variables in their development programmes Baseline: 0; Target: 6	Ministry of Popular Power for Health; Ministry of Popular Power for Education; Ministry of Popular Power for Youth and Women; Ministry of Popular Power for Planning; National Institute of Statistics; National Directorate for Civil Protection and Disaster Management	$0.9 million ($0.4 million from regular resources and $0.5 million from other resources Programme coordination and assistance: $0.4 million from regular resources